

WAUKESHA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

February 11, 2014

In Attendance:

Ms. Mitzi Dobersek; Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative
Officer Ryan Jacobs; City of Delafield Police Department Representative
Sergeant Doug Johnsen; City of New Berlin Police Department Representative
Sergeant Peter Lynkiewicz; City of Muskego Police Department Representative
Lieutenant Lisa Panas; Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator
Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi; Village of Mukwonago Police Department Representative
Sergeant Steve Rudie; Menomonee Falls Police Department Representative
Kathleen Roe; Education Representative
Sergeant Mark Tushaus; City of Brookfield Police Department Representative
Mr. Parwinder Virk; Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative

CALL TO ORDER

Kathleen Roe, Education Representative, made a motion to call the meeting to order. Sergeant Peter Lynkiewicz, from the Muskego Police Department, seconded the motion, and the meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Lisa Panas at 1:00 p.m. Lieutenant Panas introduced herself as being the new chairman for the Traffic Safety Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Sergeant Steve Rudie, from the Menomonee Falls Police Department, made a motion to approve the minutes from 11-12-13. Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi, from the Village of Mukwonago Police Department, seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The minutes were then approved.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Kathleen Roe stated she spoke to a citizen who was concerned with the way they are plowing the turn lanes south on Highway 83 from Highway 59 to Mukwonago, between CTH I and CTH NN. The citizen stated the roads were not being plowed very well, and they need to be salted or sanded. Mitzi Dobersek, from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, stated she would refer it to their Maintenance Division who is responsible for Waukesha County.

OLD BUSINESS

From the 11-12-13 meeting, Captain Paul Repischak, from the City of New Berlin Police Department, stated a citizen reported that cars were confusing her driveway for National Avenue. Bruce Barnes stated he would look into this also. Bruce Barnes was not, however, at this meeting; therefore, this item will be brought up at the next meeting on 05-06-14.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

❖ Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering

Mitzi Dobersek introduced a new engineer from the Department Of Transportation, Parwinder Virk, who will be filling in for Mitzi Dobersek.

Mitzi also stated if there are any questions on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's link that had been sent out to members listing the Southeast Transportation Region's 2014 construction maps and project lists, she would be happy to answer any questions now that the construction season is approaching.

❖ Village of Mukwonago Police Department

Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi stated that statistically in 2013 Wisconsin had the lowest annual fatality rate since 1944. Traffic fatalities were down last year in every category, including motorcyclists and pedestrians, as well as drivers and passengers. Waukesha County traffic crashes have increased substantially this year, due to the harsh winter weather and driving conditions.

Lieutenant Pileggi, who is president of the Wisconsin Traffic Safety Officer's Association (WTSOA), passed out a conference schedule and registration form. The conference is being held 03-03-14 through 03-05-14, at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. There will be DRE's at the conference available for recertification, as well as Travis Yates who will speak on "Drive to Survive".

Lieutenant Pileggi also discussed the outcome of the public hearing on 11-21-13 concerning the reconstruction of Highway 83 from the I-43 interchange to Waterford to find out if there will be a round-about put in at Highway 83 and Wolf Run or if it will be signalized. He stated the Department of Transportation will be signalizing the intersection. They also will be closing off the turn for the turn lane to get onto Arrowhead. The reconstruction will occur from 2015 to 2017.

❖ Menomonee Falls Police Department

Sergeant Steve Rudie stated that they have a high crash location on the southbound freeway. Multiple vehicle crashes have been reported in the morning hours due to speed where three lanes southbound, then opens up to four lanes, but bottlenecks severely where it takes Highway 45 south into the city or continue Highway 41 southbound. Mitzi Dobersek stated she would check into it.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS

- ➡ Sergeant Doug Johnsen, of the City of New Berlin Police Department, reported that the City of New Berlin Police Department, had one fatal accident, as follows.

- Date of Accident: 12-24-13

Location: Beloit Road, three blocks east of Sunnyslope Road

A 46-year-old male was the victim of a fatality when he was traveling westbound on Beloit Road in a Kia SUV, and crossed over the center line near Sunnyslope Road and collided head-on with a 44-year-old female driving a Buick SUV eastbound. The woman was taken to Froedtert Hospital with severe injuries. Alcohol was a contributing factor.

- ➡ Sergeant Steve Rudie, of the Menomonee Falls Police Department, reported that they had three fatal accidents, as follows.

- Date of Accident: 12-08-13

Location: Highway 41/45

Two fatalities in two separate incidents occurred within minutes of each other, due to the snowy and icy road white-out conditions on I-94. There were approximately thirty crash reports from pile-ups on the freeway due to the hazardous roads, with 154 injured and the two fatalities. The first fatal accident occurred in the 13200 block, in which the operating was driving too fast for conditions in a Honda Accord, and drove into the back of and underneath a semi-trailer. The driver passed away a few days after the accident from massive head injuries, etc. The second fatal accident occurred just north of County Line Road on the freeway was written by State Patrol. The driver also passed away a few days after the accident.

- Date of Accident: 01-10-13

Location: Appleton Avenue and Homestead, one mile south of Pilgrim Road

A single vehicle fatality which was the result of a medical condition where the vehicle veered off the road. No highway factors were involved.

- ➡ Chairman Lieutenant Lisa Panas reported that the Waukesha Sheriff's Department had two fatalities, as follows:

- Date of Accident: 11-22-13

Location: Intersection of Center Oak Road and Dobbertin Road, Town of Merton

On 11-22-13, a 2001 Dodge Neon was southbound on Center Oak Road approaching Dobbertin Road when it failed to negotiate a curve and left the roadway, striking a post, a stop sign, and several trees. The driver was severely injured, and the passenger, a 31-year-old male, was transported to Waukesha Memorial Hospital and pronounced deceased. Alcohol was a factor in the accident.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS CONTINUED

- Date of Accident: 11-29-13

Location: I-43 southbound at Evergreen Drive, Town of Vernon

This fatality is in reference to a car vs. pedestrian accident where the deceased, a 48-year-old male, was working on a disabled vehicle that was legally parked on the emergency shoulder of I-43 southbound at Evergreen Drive. For unknown reasons, the male walked into oncoming traffic in Lane #2 and was struck and killed by a passing semi. Due to the hood being raised on the disabled vehicle, the deceased was probably unaware that the semi was approaching. No injuries were reported by the driver and occupant of the semi. The semi driver and occupant were initially unaware that they were involved in an accident; and, after pulling over to inspect their vehicle, they returned to the scene and made contact with the police.

NEW BUSINESS

Sergeant Tushaus wished to address a question to Matthew Aslesen, from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, who was not in attendance at this meeting, regarding the status of any future grants other than OWI. Lieutenant Pileggi will send an e-mail to a contact person at the Bureau of Transportation Safety, and then reply back to Sergeant Tushaus.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 355 of the Waukesha County Courthouse.

ADJOURNMENT

Sergeant Peter Lynkiewicz, from the City of Muskego Police Department Representative, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Sergeant Mark Tushaus, from the City of Brookfield Police Department Representative. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gregesich
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department

(MINUTES APPROVED ON 05-06-14 WITH THE AMENDMENTS AS LISTED BELOW.)

There were two amendments to the minutes of the February 11, 2014 meeting as follows:

The amendments should be made on Page #3, under the section “High Crash Locations / Fatafs” – Sergeant Steve Rudie, of the Menomonee Falls Police Department. The first amendment is in the first sentence which currently reads: *“Two fatalities in two separate incidents occurred within minutes of each other, due to the snowy and ice road white-out conditions on I-94.”* It should be changed to read as follows: *“Two fatalities in two separate incidents occurred within minutes of each other, due to the snowy and ice road white-out conditions on I-45.”* The second amendment is in the second to last sentence which currently reads: *“The second fatal accident occurred just north of County Line Road on the freeway was written by State Patrol.”* It should be changed to read as follows: *“The second fatal accident occurred just south of County Line Road on the freeway was written by State Patrol.”*